

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 12/11/07, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Lieut. Paul Conroy, Sue Doctrow, John Lentz, Terry McElroy, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener.

Kevin O'Brien was present for item 4.

1. Administration.

11/13/07 minutes approved unanimously.

Correspondence and current projects were reviewed.

2. Schools.

- a. Five Year Plan. Ed distributed a draft Five Year Plan to Improve School Transportation Safety. Phase One improvements are inexpensive and easy, Phase 2 Improvements are the bigger, and more costly items, more difficult to implement. Sidewalks tend to be the expensive piece. Mass. Architectural Access board may have funds for sidewalks. Ed will pass draft to Barbara Goodman (representing Stand for Children) for her input.
- b. Stratton Update. Jeff and Ed will meet again with Lenore Wadman and Principal Alan Brown. Tabulating results of parent survey.
- c. Thompson. Scott will follow up with Angela Alton. They are drafting a survey, similar to Stratton's.
- d. Dallin. Jeff is working with Jack Hurd on setting up meeting with neighbors on George Street on donating private land for a sidewalk.
- e. Peirce—Elisabeth will look at School Zone upgrades.
- f. Bishop—Mike was the contact. A small study was done and some signage installed. Still in need of comprehensive planning.

3. Appleton One Way Discussion. Request by resident to explore making Appleton Place one way, eastbound. Traffic and accident counts were done. No obvious solution that works for neighbors, church and Ottoson. Possible outcomes:

- a. One way up hill, produces a bad left from Burton to Mass. Ave.
- b. One way down hill,
- c. Change parking to one side and keep the street 2 ways
- d. Do nothing.

4. Woodside Lane Sidewalk. Kevin O'Brien updated the Committee. TAC had recommended sidewalks be built on Woodside Lane by Symmes Redevelopment Associates, if the abutters approved it, as part of mitigation for increased traffic. There are 14 abutters, and 7 approved it. Kevin asked the Committee's view re public safety. If it is a public safety concern, then it goes onto the list of Town initiated and funded sidewalk projects, and would not be as high a priority as others, since it is not near a school or a well traveled pedestrian area. Otherwise, this lack of majority approval means that the developer will not pay for the sidewalk.

5. TDM Grant, Parmenter School. Laura reported that letter of interest is due Dec. 18. Draft letter is in package. Could include start up costs as well as survey and program design.

6. Westminster Phase 2 Update. Elisabeth is preparing materials for contacting Lexington about changes to intersection of Westminster and Lowell Streets. So far response from Lexington neighbors has been positive. Completed and proposed changes are shown on diagram.

7. Downing Square. Contract for design with BSC Group is ready to proceed.
8. Irving/Pleasant. Traffic loops have been installed. Waiting for weather to improve in order to install signage. Unclear if the signal timing has been changed.
9. Dearborn Academy. We got a request from the operator of Dearborn Academy to help them improve traffic during pick-up and drop off. Approximately 20-25 taxis arrive between 2:15 and 2:30. The recommendation was to split student pickup between Winter Street and Oxford St.
10. Green Line Extension Meetings/Action. Laura and Ed attended Dec. 3 Advisory Committee Meeting in Somerville. State is narrowing options to be studied (by VHB) for terminus of line. Feb. 8 deadline to define what will be studied in next year for Environmental Impact Review. Ed and Laura will be meeting with Jim Marzilli to discuss strategy.
11. Draft BoS Transportation Goals for Jack Hurd. Reviewed Draft, dated 12/8/07. Added goals for improvements for pedestrian and bicycle access.
12. Sidewalk Priorities. Look for volunteer to help with survey of existing conditions. Determine how many users are forced into the street because of inadequate sidewalk. Discussed if two lists needed--new sidewalks, and existing sidewalks in need of repair. If the category is improve sidewalks, it could be both.
13. Mass. Ave. Corridor Phase 1 and 2. Federal Highway (FHWA) has not released our contract due to lack of match from State. Other projects also being held up. State bond bill is needed to free up match. Also implied by FHWA is that they are concerned by the fact that construction funds are not in the TIP for future years. At best, design will begin in spring. Mike suggested possibility of using Chapter 90 funds on design to get us to 25% design, so that we could get construction funding onto the TIP.
14. DPW projects. Highland Ave. is being repaved. Forest Street needs reconstruction, scheduled for next year. Will be soliciting public input. Issues related to sidewalks and lack of parking. Elisabeth will head a working group to work with DPW.
15. Town Update. Laura reported that Planning will be meeting with MBTA to look at the Arl. Heights bus turnaround, and determine if any part of it can be used by town for parking to supplement that available in the HeightsWarrant articles being proposed by ARB include ability to reduce parking space requirement with inclusion of Transportation Demand Management plan.
16. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 12/11/07, Member List, Transportation Advisory Committee; "Arlington Honor Awards Winners Announced"; Correspondence from BoS; 2008 Meeting Dates; Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 12/11/07; Project Status, 12/11/07; Status of Outstanding Actions, 12/11/07; "Strawman Five Year Plan to Improve School Transportation Safety" dated 12/7/07; Letter to Barbara Lucas, Chair, Suburban Mobility Subcommittee of the Boston Region MPO, re. Transportation Demand Management (Parmenter School), dated December 10, 2007; "Transportation Goals 2008", dated 12/8/07; Establishing Priorities for Investing in Sidewalks, 12/8/07. Town of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of 11/13/07. TAC Westminster/Mt. Gilboa Project Update, 11 December 2007 Crash History #'s for Forest Street at Mass. Ave. and Appleton, Burton, Quincy Streets at Mass. Ave. New Members Booklet, December, 2007